

Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A structure of a seat back in a vehicle seat, in which the seat back has a seat occupant's back support side facing in a forward direction of the vehicle seat to supportively receive a back of an occupant on the vehicle seat and a backward side facing in a backward direction of the vehicle seat, comprising:

a back board—~~means~~ provided in said backward side of said vehicle seat, said back board—~~means~~—having a forward side facing to said forward side of said seat back and a backward side corresponding to said backward side of said seat back;

said back board—~~means~~ being so arranged as to normally provide a substantially flat plane rigid enough to withstand a first load applied toward said backward side of the back board—~~means~~, thereby to allow the back board—~~means~~ to be usable as a means for carrying load and cargo thereon, while being resiliently deformable in said backward direction of the vehicle seat by a second load applied toward said seat occupant's back support side of said seat back,

wherein said back board includes a plurality of

crevices which are normally closed to retain said back board  
in a substantially flat state, and

wherein said crevices open when the backboard is  
resiliently deformed in said backward direction by the second  
load applied to said back board in said backward direction of  
the vehicle seat.

Claims 2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The structure of a seat  
back in a vehicle seat as claimed in ~~Claim 3~~ claim 15, wherein  
said biasing ~~means~~ element comprises a tension coil spring  
connected between said seat back frame and said back board  
~~means.~~

Claim 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The structure of a seat  
back in a vehicle seat as claimed in ~~Claim 5~~ claim 15, wherein  
said back board ~~means~~ is made of a hard yet elastically  
deformable material, said back board having a plurality of  
cubic protrusions integrally formed ~~[[in]]~~ on said one side  
~~thereof corresponding to said backward side of said back board~~  
~~means thereof,~~ and wherein said ~~means for defining a~~ plurality  
of crevices comprises a plurality of slits formed in said one  
side of said back board so as to define a plurality of

crevices among said plurality of cubic protrusions, with such an arrangement that said plurality of crevices are normally closed by an ~~an-elastically~~ elastic recovery property of said back board as well as under the biasing force of said biasing ~~means~~ element, thereby resiliently biasing all said plurality of cubic protrusions into contact with one another, whereby said back board is normally retained in said substantially flat state, and that said crevices are openable when said second load is applied to said back board, thereby allowing the back board to be resiliently deformed in said backward direction of the vehicle seat.

7. (Currently Amended) The structure of a seat back in a vehicle seat as claimed in Claim 6, wherein said plurality of cubic protrusions are arranged in an orderly way ~~[[in]]~~ on said back board, so that said plurality of crevices are disposed in a substantially grid fashion ~~[[in]]~~ on the back board.

8. (Currently Amended) The structure of a seat back in a vehicle seat as claimed in ~~Claim 5~~ Claim 15, wherein said back board ~~means~~ comprises: a plurality of plate pieces pivotally connected with one another, ~~thereby providing a back board~~; and a plurality of stopper pieces which are integrally formed with said plurality of plate pieces, respectively,

wherein said ~~means for defining~~ a plurality of crevices comprises a plurality of crevices each being defined between two of said plurality of stopper pieces, which in ~~turns~~ turn defines plural sets of said two of said plurality of stopper pieces in said back board, with such an arrangement that all said plurality of stopper pieces are normally biased into contact with one another under the biasing force of said ~~biasing means~~ element, with said plurality of crevices being closed, whereby said back board is normally retained in a flat state to provide said substantially flat plane, and that, when said second load is applied to said back board, said plurality of stopper pieces are pivotally displaced away from one another to cause said plurality of crevices to open, ~~thereby allowing wherein~~ the back board ~~to be~~ is resiliently deformed in said backward direction of the vehicle seat.

9. (Currently Amended) The structure of a seat back in a vehicle seat as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said plurality of plate pieces are arranged in an orderly fashion in said back board, so that said plurality of crevices are disposed in a substantially grid fashion in the back board.

10. (Currently Amended) The structure of a seat back in a vehicle seat as claimed in ~~Claim 5~~ Claim 15, wherein said back board ~~means~~ comprises: a plurality of plate pieces;

and a plurality of link pieces pivotally connected with said plurality of plate pieces, ~~thereby providing a back board,~~ wherein said means for defining a plurality of crevices comprises a plurality of crevices defined among said plurality of plate pieces, with such an arrangement that said plurality of plate pieces are normally biased under the biasing force of said ~~biasing means~~ element into contact with said plurality of link pieces, with said plurality of crevices being closed, so as to allow said plurality of plate pieces to be movable only when said second load is applied to said back board, whereby said back board is normally retained in a flat shape to provide said substantially flat plane, and that when said second load is applied to said back board, said plurality of plate pieces are pivotally displaced away from one another relative to said plurality of said link pieces so as to cause said plurality of crevices to open, thereby allowing the back board to be resiliently deformed in said backward direction of the vehicle seat.

11. (Currently Amended) The structure of a seat back in a vehicle seat as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said plurality of plate pieces are arranged in an orderly fashion in said back board, so that said plurality of crevices are disposed in a substantially grid fashion in the back board.

12. (Currently Amended) The structure of a seat back in a vehicle seat as claimed in ~~Claim 5~~ Claim 1, wherein said back board ~~means comprises a back board~~ is made of a hard yet elastically deformable material, said back board having a plurality of elastic hinge portions formed integrally in ~~one side thereof corresponding to~~ said backward side ~~[[of]] thereof, said back board means,~~ said plurality of elastic hinge portions each having a generally inverted-U-shaped cross-section, and wherein said means for defining a plurality of crevices comprises a plurality of crevices each being defined in ~~another side of said back board corresponding to~~ said forward side of said back board ~~means~~ at a point corresponding to each of said plurality of elastic hinge portions, with such an arrangement that said plurality of crevices are normally closed by an elastically elastic recovery property of said plurality of elastic hinge portions, thereby retaining said back board in said substantially flat state, and that said plurality of crevices are openable when said second load is applied to said one side of said back board, thereby allowing the back board to be resiliently deformed in said backward direction of the vehicle seat.

13. (Currently Amended) The structure of a seat back in a vehicle seat as claimed in Claim 12, wherein said plurality of elastic hinge portions are arranged in a

substantially grid fashion in said one side of said back board, thereby defining said plurality of crevices in a substantially grid fashion in said another side of said back board.

14. (New) A structure of a seat back in a vehicle seat, in which the seat back has a seat occupant's back support side facing in a forward direction of the vehicle seat to supportively receive a back of an occupant on the vehicle seat and a backward side facing in a backward direction of the vehicle seat, comprising:

a back board provided in said backward side of said vehicle seat, said back board having a forward side facing to said forward side of said seat back and a backward side corresponding to said backward side of said seat back;

said back board being so arranged as to normally provide a substantially flat plane rigid enough to withstand a first load applied toward said backward side of the back board, thereby to allow the back board to be usable as a means for carrying load and cargo thereon, while being resiliently deformable in said backward direction of the vehicle seat by a second load applied toward said seat occupant's back support side of said seat back;

wherein said back board includes a plurality of crevices which are normally closed to retain said back board in a substantially flat state, and

wherein said crevices open to form a grid when the back board is resiliently deformed in said backward direction by the second load applied to said back board in said backward direction of the vehicle seat.

15. (New) The structure of a seat back in a vehicle seat as claimed in claim 1,

further including a biasing element in a seat back frame that biases said back board to expand flatly to provide said substantially flat plane, and

a stopper that receives said back board and prevents movement toward said forward side of said vehicle seat.